



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

HIGH COURT JUSTICES HONORED BY DRUG COURT PROFESSIONALS' GROUP

Contacts: Marcia McBrien, Public Information Officer, Michigan Supreme Court:
(517) 373-0129/(313) 972-3219
Judge Harvey Hoffman, President, Michigan Association of Drug Court
Professionals: (517) 543-7500, ext. 297

DETROIT, MI, February 8, 2002 – Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan and Justice Elizabeth Weaver were honored by the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP) during its annual conference in Detroit earlier this week. Judge Harvey Hoffman of 56A District Court in Charlotte, president of MADCP, presented the awards.

“Each year, the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals honors one or two persons who have given exceptional service and support to the drug courts,” said Hoffman. “We honored Justice Weaver because she was the first prominent official, on a state-wide basis, to come out in strong support of the drug courts.”

Weaver began her judicial career as a probate judge, Hoffman added. “As such, she has a keen appreciation of the role treatment can play in the justice system,” he said.

MADCP honored Corrigan “for defending and supporting the drug courts during the budget process,” Hoffman said. “We know that all branches of state government had to make cuts, and the Chief Justice had some difficult decisions to make in this budget year. She has helped us to continue the drug courts’ work.”

Weaver praised the drug courts as “a ‘miracle’ in the life of many individuals and their families. The drug courts have helped them regain their lives. I commend the men and women of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals for helping those who have become dependent on drugs to rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community.”

Corrigan, who spoke at a graduation ceremony for drug court participants during the MADCP conference, said Michigan drug courts would receive a total of \$1,487,181 in awards for fiscal year 2002 – an increase over the \$1.37 million awarded in 2001. “We are committed to maintaining, and we hope to increase, the level of funding for these drug court programs,” she said.

MADCP also honored Michigan Senator Walter H. North as Legislator of the Year. General Barry McCaffrey (ret.), former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, was the keynote speaker at the MADCP conference.

Drug courts are special dockets within the district, probate, and circuit courts dealing with non-violent drug offenders. Defendants who have committed crimes related to substance abuse enter guilty pleas and go immediately into treatment, Hoffman explained. Participants undergo frequent random testing for drugs and may be subject to short jail terms for violations. Intensive counseling and individual problem solving are also features of the program, giving offenders the opportunity to straighten out their lives and avoid prison. There are 20 drug courts in Michigan; eight more jurisdictions are planning drug court programs.

Members of MADCP include Michigan judges, probation officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, social workers and others who provide counseling and treatment to drug court participants.
